



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for December 2002 was 5.1 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was four-tenths of a percentage point below the November 2002 rate of 5.5 percent and seven-tenths above the December 2001 rate of 4.4 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 1,300, or 0.6 percent, from November, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 800 individuals, or 5.9 percent. The combination of the increasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed led to an overall decrease of 22,500 individuals, or 8.3 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force*, from December 2001 to December 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for December 2002 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: December 2002  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for  
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	179,237	8,237	4.6	171,001
Adams	1,630	287	17.6	1,343
Boise	2,674	207	7.8	2,467
Canyon	68,999	4,505	6.5	64,493
Elmore	10,095	737	7.3	9,358
Gem	5,747	503	8.7	5,244
Owyhee	4,008	126	3.1	3,882
Payette	10,317	1,062	10.3	9,255
Valley	3,952	369	9.3	3,582
Washington	4,724	549	11.6	4,174
Statewide	687,926	38,550	5.6	649,376

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 500, or 0.2 percent, from November 2002 to December 2002, while over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 3,800 in the Boise City MSA. Month-

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	Dec 2002*	Nov 2002	Dec 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	248,200	247,700	270,700	0.2	-8.3
Unemployment	12,700	13,500	11,900	-5.9	6.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.5	4.4		
Total Employment	235,500	234,200	258,800	0.6	-9.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	249,200	249,900	271,200	-0.3	-8.1
Unemployment	13,500	13,200	12,500	2.3	8.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.4	5.3	4.6		
Total Employment	235,700	236,700	258,700	-0.4	-8.9
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	228,900	229,400	232,700	-0.2	-1.6
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>					
<b>Construction &amp; Mining</b>	48,500	49,000	51,800	-1.0	-6.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	15,000	15,300	16,500	-2.0	-9.1
Durable Goods	33,500	33,700	35,300	-0.6	-5.1
Lumber & Wood Products	25,100	25,300	26,900	-0.8	-6.7
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	3,000	3,000	3,100	0.0	-3.2
Other Lumber & Wood Products	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0	-4.3
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	1,200	1,200	1,100	0.0	9.1
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	6,500	6,600	7,400	-1.5	-12.2
Transportation Equipment	11,100	11,200	11,800	-0.9	-5.9
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Food & Kindred Products	8,400	8,400	8,400	0.0	0.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	5,700	5,600	5,700	1.8	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	800	900	800	-11.1	0.0
<b>Trans., Comm., &amp; Public Utilities</b>	180,400	180,400	180,900	0.0	-0.3
Transportation	12,300	12,300	12,100	0.0	1.7
Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	6,800	6,800	6,900	0.0	-1.4
<b>Trade</b>	5,500	5,500	5,200	0.0	5.8
Wholesale Trade	56,500	56,400	57,500	0.2	-1.7
Durable Goods	12,400	12,400	12,600	0.0	-1.6
Nondurable Goods	7,700	7,600	7,700	1.3	0.0
Retail Trade	4,700	4,800	4,900	-2.1	-4.1
General Merchandise Stores	44,100	44,000	44,900	0.2	-1.8
Foods Stores	6,300	6,300	6,200	0.0	1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	7,200	7,300	7,600	-1.4	-5.3
Other Retail Trade	15,100	15,100	15,600	0.0	-3.2
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	15,500	15,300	15,500	1.3	0.0
<b>Services</b>	11,800	11,600	11,800	1.7	0.0
Business Services	62,600	63,200	62,800	-0.9	-0.3
Health Services	13,500	13,700	15,100	-1.5	-10.6
Hospitals	19,400	19,400	18,900	0.0	2.6
Eng. Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related	9,300	9,300	8,900	0.0	4.5
Other Services	5,700	5,600	5,100	1.8	11.8
<b>Government</b>	24,000	24,500	23,700	-2.0	1.3
Federal Government	37,200	36,900	36,700	0.8	1.4
State Government	5,400	5,400	5,300	0.0	1.9
Education	13,700	13,400	13,800	2.2	-0.7
Administration	5,100	4,800	4,800	6.3	6.3
Local Government	8,600	8,600	9,000	0.0	-4.4
Education	18,100	18,100	17,600	0.0	2.8
Administration	12,100	12,100	11,700	0.0	3.4
	6,000	6,000	5,900	0.0	1.7

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 500 jobs; job decreases outpaced job openings in *Food & Kindred Products* (100). Other decreases were noted in *Construction & Mining*, (-300), *Industrial Communications Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (-100), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (-100), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-100). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,300 jobs, with *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* the only industry to experience a gain (100). Job losses occurred in *Construction & Mining* (-1,500), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (-100), *Industrial Communications Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (-900), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (-700), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-100), and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (-100).

In *Service-Producing Industries* the number of jobs created from November to December 2002 equaled the number of jobs lost, with job gains noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (200), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management & Related Services* (100), and *State Government Education* (300). Job losses occurred in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100), *Food Stores* (-100), *Business Services* (-200), and *Other Services* (-500). Year-over-year *Service-Producing Industries* lost 500 jobs, with job losses in *Transportation* (-100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-200), *Food Stores* (-400), *Eating & Drinking Places* (-500), *Business Services* (-1,600), and *State Government Administration* (-400) outpacing job gains in *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (300), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Health Services* (500) primarily *Hospitals* (400), *Other Services* (300), *Federal Government* (100), *State Government Education* (300), *Local Government Education* (400), and *Local Government Administration* (100). The overall loss of jobs over the year is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Ninety Buy Idaho member businesses participated in a show at the Idaho Statehouse in mid-January. Legislators, government workers, and visitors toured the Capitol building and learned about the products and services of the Idaho businesses on display. Buy Idaho is a non-profit, non-tax-supported association of Idaho business, industry, agriculture, education, and governmental entities working together to promote Idaho products and services.
- The Business and Technology Expo, held in late January in Boise, showed a 25 percent increase in exhibitors over 2002. Event organizers cited an increased optimism about the economy as one of the reasons more exhibitors participated in the event. People who attended the Expo had an opportunity to learn basic information about various businesses as well as see new trends and products in the market.
- In early January, Kelly Matthews, vice-president and chief economist for Wells Fargo, discussed the forecast for the 2003 economy at the Wells Fargo Economic Symposium in Boise. Matthews made the following predictions for the Idaho economy in 2003: personal income will rise 4.5 percent, up from 2002; nonagricultural employment will increase 1.1 percent, compared to a loss in 2002; the unemployment rate will be 5.5 percent, virtually unchanged from 2002; housing construction will slow with a 10 percent decrease in the construction of single-dwelling units from 2002; and retail will rise 4.0 percent.
- Boise State University (BSU) has experienced record enrollment in the past few years, but BSU President Charles Ruch stated that the school couldn't sustain the growth unless additional money is provided by the State. Suggestions for cutting the current expansion rate include increasing the admission standards and assessing the current student population. Students who are considered academically at-risk may be asked to consider other educational options.
- Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) announced in early December that tuition would be lowered in an effort to draw more students. School officials hope to attract an additional 150 students. After ACI announced a budget deficit of \$6 million in 2002, the school cut costs by \$2 million and expected to raise the additional \$4 million in fund-raising campaigns and donations. At the end of 2002 unrestricted donations were up 148 percent from the previous year.
- American Eagle Airlines announced in late December that its national affiliate, American Airlines, would shut down its Boise operation. The daily trips to Dallas from Boise will come to an end, and 11 employees will be affected. The airline industry's poor financial standing is cited as the reason for the closure.
- The ParkCenter KMart in Boise is one of 326 KMart stores nationwide that will close by April 30. The store currently is holding a liquidation sale that will end when the store officially closes.

- The Garden City Community Clinic opened in mid-December to fill a niche in Boise's medical community. The clinic provides diagnoses and treatments at no charge to patients with low income and inadequate health insurance. Genesis World Mission operates the clinic.
- Associated Food Stores closed its warehouse in Boise on Market Street in early December. The warehouse supplied groceries to about 95 small, independent grocery stores in Boise and surrounding rural areas. These areas will now be serviced by the company's new warehouse in Farr West, Utah. Between 65 and 70 employees were affected by the closure.
- Construction has started on a new retirement community in Meridian. Meadow Lake Village, located at 3805 East Franklin Road, is currently taking reservations for the first 150 houses that are already under construction. Meadow Lake Village will include a community center, golf course, a small lake, and a park. Roads are already complete. Three homes are currently available for tours. See [www.meadowlakevillage.com](http://www.meadowlakevillage.com) for more information.
- Micron Technology and Hewlett-Packard are among the top ten companies in the United States to be awarded patents in 2002. Micron Technology, the third highest company on the list, was awarded 1,833 patents by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, which is 11.5 percent more than it was awarded in 2001. Hewlett-Packard, the ninth highest, was awarded 1,385 patents, which is more than 40 percent higher than the number it was awarded in 2001. IBM and General Electric held the number one and two positions, respectively, for number of patents awarded to a single company.
- Micron Technology announced a deal with Given Imaging in January that will allow Micron to be the exclusive developer and supplier of image sensors over the next five years for Given's camera-in-a-pill.
- In 2003, MicronPC changed its name to MPC. The company also announced in late January that it won a \$12 million, three-year contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to supply desktop computers to VA sites in northern and central California, Nevada, and Hawaii.
- The Eleventh Avenue Underpass opened in late January in Nampa. Local businesses and citizens of Nampa are grateful for the opening, one of the main north-south routes in Nampa that was closed for more than a year for the project. A crowd of more than 1,000 people turned out for the opening in which 80 classic cars paraded through the newly-opened underpass.
- In late December a new paramedic station opened at 912 Specht Street near I-84 in Caldwell. The station was funded by a \$1.66 million voter-approved override levy. The money also funded a substation in Nampa, two new ambulances, and additional support staff.
- Several business have opened in the Boise City MSA recently, including: Pick Up The Pace exercise center in Nampa, Just Toast (restaurant) in downtown Boise, Boise Book & Game Co. in the Sonna Building in downtown Boise, Panda Express' fourth eatery in the Treasure Valley, a Wells Fargo full-service banking location near the Edwards Cinema Complex in Nampa, two new Sonic drive-ins in Ada County, the Music Theatre of Idaho's new permanent location in Nampa, Grandma's Treasures thrift shop at the Boise Senior Activities Center, Frosty Palace (reopening) at 1302 Paynter in Caldwell, the Red Feather Lounge in downtown Boise, two Baja Fresh Mexican Grill locations in Boise and Meridian.
- Several businesses are planning to open in the area soon. Gold's Gym announced plans to open two additional Treasure Valley locations in 2003, including one in east Boise and one in Nampa, Fitness 19 announced plans to open two Boise workout centers in 2003, Tacoma Screw Product announced plans to open a store in Boise in 2003, Eldredge's Furniture & Mattresses announced plans to open a Boise outlet in early March, Subway announced plans to open another franchise in Caldwell at the corner of Tenth Avenue and Chicago Street in spring 2003, creating 12 jobs, and Mountain West Bank announced plans in January to open its fifth branch in the area in early March.
- Several business closings have been announced. McDonald's closed its downtown Boise location in late December, Victors Restaurant and Lounge closed in Caldwell in late January, Joe's All American Grill and Sixth & Main at Joe's closed in mid-January in downtown Boise.
- Other business happenings in the Boise City MSA in the past few months include: the Whittenberger Foundation awarded \$30,000 towards the construction of a new YMCA building in Caldwell, construction started on a new office building on Shoreline Drive in Boise, Idaho Central Credit Union announced plans to start construction on a Meridian branch in spring 2003, Boise City Parks

and Recreation Department announced plans to build an educational facility in north Boise in 2003, Rock, Paper, Scissors was renamed Scraps 'n Scissors and held a reopening ceremony in mid-December, the Eighth Street Marketplace changed ownership in early January, and the WorkSource Career Center extended its hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

#### **Adams County**

- Boise Corporation shut down all of its Idaho timberland to logging in mid-November instead of the end of December as they normally do. The land reopened in January.

#### **Boise County**

- Bogus Basin opened on December 19 for the 2002-2003 season, however, early-season rain and too little snow may result in a less profitable season for the resort this year as in previous years. The mountain has been operating under limited conditions for part of the season because of weather conditions.

#### **Gem County**

- The Shadow Butte Development Corporation announced in early January that it would convert the former BMC West building on West Main Street in Emmett into a second location for Liberty Canyon Boys Ranch. The proposed remodeling of the building will allow for a 36-bed facility and would employ about 36 people. Funds will be provided by an Idaho Department of Commerce Rural Development Block Grant.
- Other business happenings in the past few months in Gem County include the ribbon cutting of Bayside Printing and Design at 103 South Commercial Avenue in Emmett, the ribbon cutting of Tomorrow's Hope in Emmett, and the expansion of Community Partnerships of Idaho, Inc.'s Adult Developmental Center located at 616 Washington Avenue in Emmett.

#### **Payette County**

- In early January the City of Fruitland took over the city's ambulance service. The City of Fruitland now runs Payette County Paramedics. The crew, ambulances, and main offices are now located at Fruitland City Hall.
- Other business happenings in Payette County in the past few months include: the Apple Bin was recognized as the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year, Kelly Whiting held a grand opening for his new office at 425 South Whitley in Payette, the Airporter Shuttle Company held an official ribbon cutting in late No-

vember, and the Payette School District announced in late December that it would hold a third bond election in March to build a new middle school.

#### **Valley County**

- Brundage Mountain Ski Resort opened during the third week of December for the 2002-2003 ski season. In early January Brundage held an open house to discuss proposed changes to the resort including five new chairlifts, additional ski trails, a snow tubing facility, a mountaintop restaurant, additional skier-service facilities, expanded parking facilities, and additional trails and infrastructure to support the improvements.
- Construction has started on an upscale recreational vehicle (RV) park near the intersection of Mission Street and Deinhard Lane on the North Fork of the Payette River in McCall. The McCall RV Park facility will include space for approximately 240 high-end RVs and a complex of buildings to include a reception hall, banquet room, industrial kitchen, swimming pool, sauna, and massage room that will all be connected by breezeways. The facility will be built in three phases over the next few years.
- In other business news in Valley County, the mobile MRI equipment that travels to McCall on a weekly basis expanded its visits to McCall Memorial Hospital to two times per week; WestRock, a planned resort development near McCall, officially changed its name to Tamarack in December 2002 with the new slogan: "Tamarack, Trailhead to Discovery;" the McCall Ice Rink and Event Center raised enough money to finish the construction of the facility, but approximately \$150,000 is still needed to purchase equipment for the facility; McCall Memorial Hospital received an \$11,000 grant awarded by the State that will be shared by EMS groups from McCall, Donnelly, Meadows Valley, and Riggins.

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